

LINCOLN MEMORIAL  
CENTER

DRAWER 12

SPRINGFIELD

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# Illinois Springfield

## Lincoln Memorial Center

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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# LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER ASSOCIATION



## Officers

Frank T. Davis PRESIDENT  
Dr. C. Robert Fults VICE-PRESIDENT  
Herbert Georg VICE-PRESIDENT  
Phil Bisch TREASURER  
William E. Skadden SECRETARY

A not for profit corporation . . . Brown, Hay and Stephens, Legal Counselors . . . Raymond E. Rickbeil, C.P.A., Auditor

Post Office Box 211 . . . SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
January 15, 1954

Dr. Louis Warren  
Lincoln National Life Company  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Doctor Warren:

We have included your suggested idea for a museum in the park plan and have incorporated a sketch of the building in the publicity photographs. Enclosing 5 copy for your consideration.

I am planning to be in Chicago for a few days during the week of January 17th. While there I'll call on Paul Angle and a few others, including Mr. Alfred Stern.

I wonder if you would be good enough to drop him a note - sort of a door opener? I'd appreciate it very much.

Cordially,  
*Frank T. Davis*  
Frank T. Davis

FTD/er

January 14, 1955

Mr. Frank T. Davis  
Post Office Box 211  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Mr. Davis:

Your letter addressed to Dr. Warren with its enclosure of the sketch of the Lincoln Memorial Center arrived here following his departure from the office on his annual speaking itinerary. He will not return until the middle of March. Consequently, I regret that it will be impossible for him to write a note of introduction to Mr. Alfred Stern as suggested.

I am holding your letter with its enclosure and will bring it to Dr. Warren's attention upon his return.

Wishing you much success in your very worth-while venture,  
I remain

Sincerely yours,

m/m

Margaret Moellering  
Secretary to Dr. Warren



March 17, 1955

Frank T. Davis, President  
Lincoln Memorial Center Association  
Post Office Box 211  
Springfield, Illinois

My Dear Mr. Davis:

Just back after a nine weeks' speaking itinerary, I find your letter of January 13 on my desk which I think my secretary acknowledged.

I am sorry I could not have been of some help in introducing you to Mr. Stern but I am sure that you found friends in Chicago fully as capable of doing that as I would be.

I like the plans you have drawn up very much and hope they have met with a favorable acceptance. It seems to me that eventually some thing of this sort must be developed, if we are to have a proper environment for the Lincoln Home.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:b

AIR MAIL -- SPECIAL DELIVERY

March 28, 1955

Mr. Frank T. Davis, President  
Lincoln Memorial Center Association  
Post Office Box 211  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

We are planning to put out, immediately, an issue of Lincoln Lore boosting the Lincoln Center at Springfield. Will you please send by return mail any information which may help me in putting the project clearly before our 6,000 subscribers?

Please hurry.

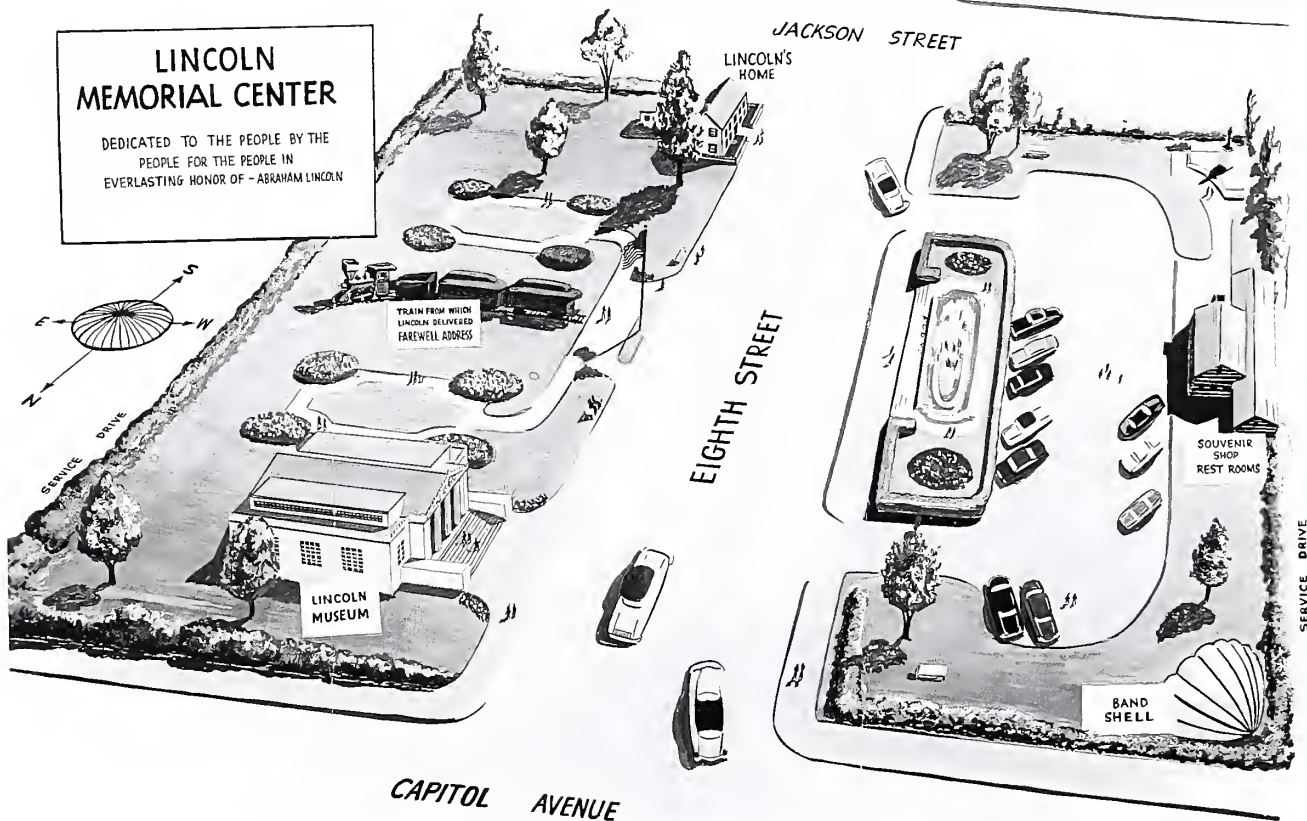
Sincerely yours,

LAW:mm

Director

# LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER

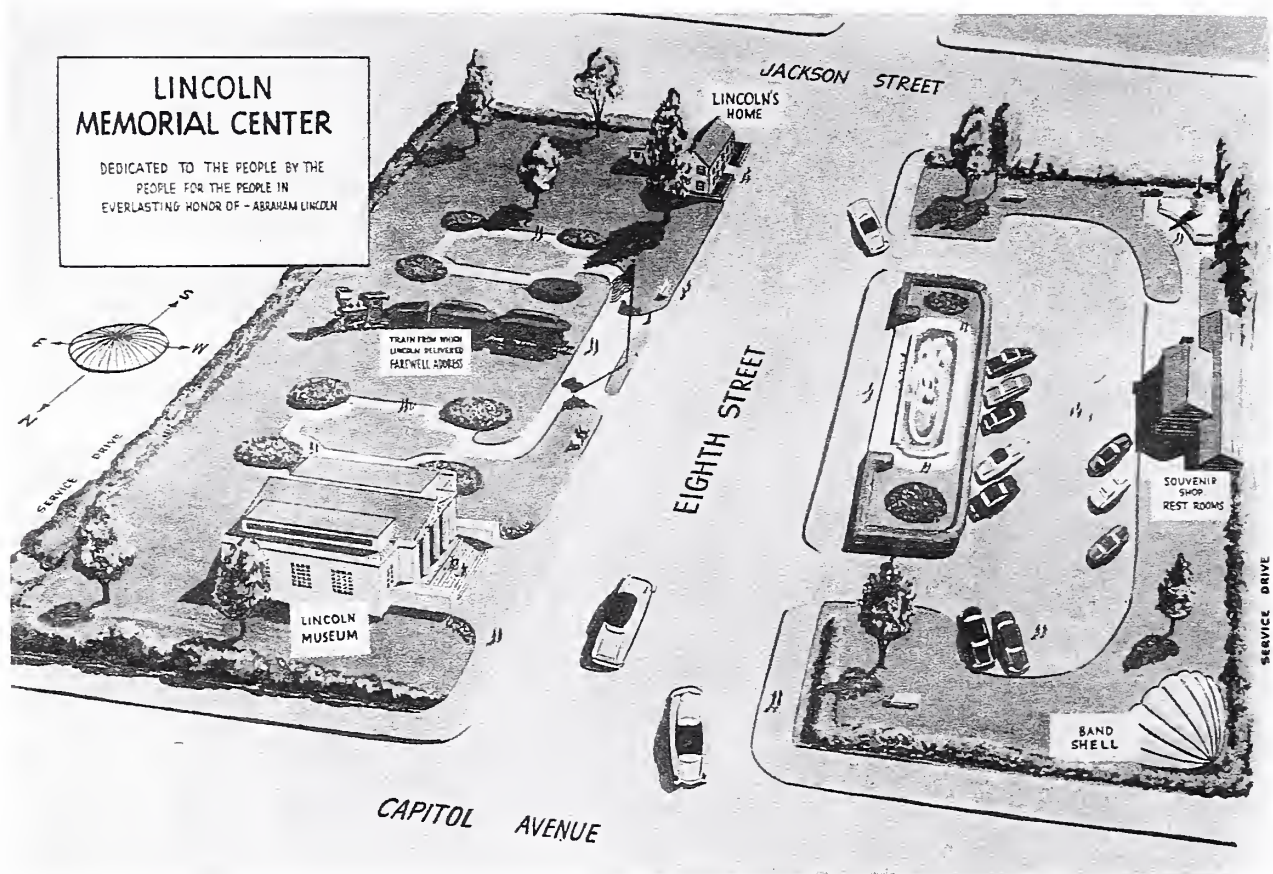
DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE BY THE  
PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE IN  
EVERLASTING HONOR OF - ABRAHAM LINCOLN





FROM THE  
ROBERT GEORG STUDIO  
211 S. 5TH ST.  
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

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An artist's conception of a possible plan for the establishment of a park area immediately adjacent to the LINCOLN HOME, to be known as the LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER; \*\*\* PURPOSE: To create greater interest in LINCOLN'S HOME, HIS LIFE AND IDEALS . . . To develop the area in attractiveness to a point in keeping with its importance as a NATIONAL SHRINE . . . To rescue the ONLY HOME EVER OWNED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN from the fate predicted by the famous city planner Myron West, "A SITE ADRIPT IN A CITY." \*\*\* Any statues, historical replicas or buildings to be placed in the LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER will be considered only after approval by the Historical Committee of the Lincoln Memorial Center Association. All suggestions will be judged by it upon such basic factors as: (1) historical accuracy, (2) historical value and appeal, (3) propriety and appropriateness, (4) need and service to all people. \*\*\* The Historical Committee will be composed of recognized historians and Lincoln students.



- 1 Introduced by Senator Hart, January 25, 1955.
- 2 Read by title, ordered printed, and referred to Committee on Assignment of Bills.

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### A BILL

For an Act designating a State slogan.

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*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:*

- Section 1. The slogan "Land of Lincoln" is designated and shall be known
- 2 as the official slogan of the State of Illinois.

# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

AN INTERNATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

## Lincoln Home Site To Get Face Lift

By Godfrey Sperling, Jr.

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Springfield, Ill.

When Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was campaigning for the presidency he paused and frowned as he stepped out the front door of Lincoln's home here.

Onlookers noted that the look of displeasure was directed toward the down-at-the-heel neighborhood which now casts a shadow of neglect upon the memory of the great emancipator.

The work, preceding Lincoln's birthday, an ambitious plan has been set in motion to place the Lincoln home in a proper setting.

A Lincoln Memorial Center Association is launching a drive for \$1,000,000, a fund which will be used for providing spacious grounds for a home dedicated "to the people, by the people, for the people" in celebrating honor of Abraham Lincoln.

The association, led by Frank T. Dickey, its president, and William E. Ladd, its secretary, is reminding Lincoln admirers throughout the land of a glaring omission among the tributes to the nation's great presidents.

### Museum Planned Too

For George Washington, the nation's first official portrait, there is Mount Vernon, where the Mount Vernon Association has added streets to protect it from "undesirable encroachments." For Thomas Jefferson there is Monticello, and for Andrew Jackson there is the Hermitage.

But where, you ask, of the nation's greatest president, the one whose name is on the lips of every American child, is his home? For an answer, except for a reminder to the public, there is no place.

The plan, however, is to place the Lincoln home in an attractive, landscaped setting.

Good as the Lincoln home is, it is a simple, unimposing structure. It is a modest, one-story house, built in 1839, and it is a credit to the public.

In addition, the more than 100,000 people who visit the Lincoln home each year will be provided with a parking area. And a replica of the train from which Lincoln departed his Farewell Address will be on display across the street.

Additional emphasis on the memorial center project has come from the opening of six additional rooms in the Lincoln home, making the entire house now available to the public for the first time.

The rooms, opening on Lincoln's birthday, are the first rooms that have been opened since 1887 when the property was presented to the state by Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln.

### Foundation Restored

To accommodate the increasingly heavy flow of traffic through a house designed for a moderate-sized family, it also was necessary at one time to restore some of the brick foundation wall which was crumbling, as well as many of the sills and joists where dry rot and termites had taken their toll.

Visitors to the home now will pass through the first floor rooms as they did in the past:

then they will go up the front stairs. On the second floor they first will visit Lincoln's bedroom at the northwest corner of the house. Then they will cross the hall to the guest room, passing through it to Robert Todd Lincoln's room and out of it into the rear hall.

Across the hall from Robert's room is his mother's bedroom which also opens into Lincoln's bedroom at the front. Back of Mrs. Lincoln's room at the east end of the hall is the maid's room. Across the hall from this is the linen room and the back stairway leading down to the kitchen.

### Built in 1839

The house that has become the Lincoln home of today was built originally in 1839 as a two-story house with a one-story wing at the back. It was built for the Rev. Charles Dickey, from whom Lincoln purchased it in 1844.

In 1846 the Lincolns had the whole structure cut off by a two-story house, of a cost of \$1,000 and here they lived until 1861.

The furnishings and their arrangement in these rooms on the first floor, the sitting room, the front and back parlors, have been patterned after drawings published in the Illustrated Weekly on March 9, 1861. There was no such guide for furnishing the upstairs rooms.

In 1904 the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Illinois, a local patriotic organization, took over the house. Since then the Dames have been restoring the house to its original condition. That is, the house as it was when it was built.

### Original Furniture

So far, all of the furniture in the house is original. The original furniture is in the sitting room, the front and back parlors, and a bedroom. It is that famous to be in the house for a long time past and other buildings of the 1830s.

In Mrs. Lincoln's room, a straight chair, a straight chair, and a straight chair that were hers. In the guest room there is a mother's sleigh-type bed, a wicker day bed, and a straight chair that belonged to the Lincolns. The remainder of the furnishings in these two rooms, as well as those in Robert's room and the maid's room, are of the pre-Civil War period.

Also in the upstairs hall there is a large wall clock that belonged to the Lincolns.

The stove in the kitchen is a near duplicate of Mrs. Lincoln's, now in the Ford Theater Museum in Washington, and although the kitchen is fully equipped, the only articles that belonged to her are a tin rice steamer and an ironstone sugar bowl and creamer.

Great care was taken so that the wallpaper, curtains, and carpeting would be authentic. Some of the original paper still is on Lincoln's bedroom wall. This has been enclosed under glass and the pattern duplicated for the rest of the room.



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P R E S S   R E L E A S E

By Frank Davis.

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WHY   HIDE   IT

To Visit Lincoln's Home,  
Find It, Harvey Advises

"If you want to visit the only home that Abraham Lincoln ever owned, first you have to find it," commentator Paul Harvey told listeners over American Broadcasting network recently.

Harvey urged contributions to the Springfield Memorial center, headed by Frank T. Davis, president; Herbert Georg, vice president; Phil Bisch, treasurer, and Rev. William Skadden, secretary.

On Lincoln's birthday, the association launched a nation-wide drive to raise \$1,000,000 to be presented to the State of Illinois for use in converting the entire block surrounding Lincoln's home into a memorial center to be dedicated to the people, by the people, for the people in everlasting honor of the Great American Emancipator - Abraham Lincoln.

In his broadcast Harvey said:

"You know what: Americans have preserved The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, and carefully we have preserved Mt. Vernon and Monticello, in respect for Washington and Jefferson and all that they preserved for us.

"In Dutchess county on the Hudson, we've made a shrine of Hyde Park, built a library beside F. D. R.'s home there, and a Truman Memorial library is being built in Independence, Missouri, at a cost one and three-quarter million dollars.

"If you want to visit the only home that Abraham Lincoln ever bought and owned and lived in, first, you have to find it. On a side street, sitting on a single city lot, at the intersection of Eighth and Jackson. There surrounded by rows of houses of only slightly more recent vintage and guarded by a stately procession of curb-side parking meters, stands the home where Abraham Lincoln lived. Where all save one of his children were born, where one died, where in the Emancipator's own words, 'he grew from a young man to an old man.' By his own hand he helped remodel that hallowed place.

"Kentucky has preserved his birthplace. Illinois has made a monument of his tomb, but he didn't choose the place where he was born or the place where he was to be buried. He chose that home at Eighth and Jackson Streets. He bought it, insured it, improved it! And Springfield has been doing it's best to hide it.

"Yet despite their best efforts to lose this old house in the anonymity of it's declining neighborhood, some 400,000 people manage to find it every year. Almost half a million who think he was one of the men God gave us when we needed something more than mortal wisdom to guide us.

"Some of us who visiting Washington get real goose bumps when we watch the lights come on of an evening behind the great chair in the Lincoln Memorial on the hilltop at the end of the mall. Almost half a million of us somehow manage to find our way every year to the street corner in Springfield where some swear he still walks at midnight.

"Well a little handful of men, called the Lincoln Memorial Center Association, is going to try to place this jewel in the setting it deserves, and Governor Stratton has promised them if they can raise the necessary million dollars, he will help to surround the Lincoln home with a park, and a proper museum, and replant trees where the parking meters now preside.

"Now if you have a picture of Lincoln you'd like to contribute to this worthy memorial just send it to the Lincoln Fund, Springfield, Illinois, and... incidently, there is a picture of him the familiar Brady picture on the five dollar bill. I will if you will. Or, you can send in a picture of George Washington on the one dollar bill. And his picture is on the penny too youngsters are invited to send those. I've an idea Mr. Lincoln might even appreciate that more. Please don't send any of this to me. Send it direct to the Lincoln Fund, Springfield, Illinois. The postmaster there will know what it's for. You tell Springfield to stop hiding that house!"

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## Pupils Of 2 Schools Lead Fund Drive For Park

By FRANK DAVIS.

History, seemingly, is repeating itself through the self-inspired drive by the Lincoln and Harvard Park grade school students to help raise money for the

### Kohorst Says Political Foes Spread Rumors

Joseph H. Kohorst, commissioner of public health and safety, charged yesterday that political foes are spreading rumors designed to discredit him with food handlers employed at city restaurants.

Kohorst said one rumor states he intends to charge a fee for physical examinations for food handlers, which have been administered free by the health department.

"This is purely rumor and has no basis in fact," Kohorst said. "The program of food handlers' examinations by the city health department has not been changed. This service is free of all charges and is available on Friday mornings between 8:30 and 10 a. m. in the council chambers at city hall."

Kohorst said notices stating that no change is contemplated in the free examination service will be sent to restaurant operators throughout the city.

### With The Sick

Visiting hours: At St. John's hospital, 3 to 4 p. m. and 7 to 8 p. m.; at Memorial hospital, 2 p. m. to 4 p. m. and 7 to 8 p. m. Nurses from 2:30 to 4 p. m. and 7 to 8 p. m. at Memorial.

#### MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

##### Admitted.

Mrs. Jason Meador, 706 W. Miller St.  
Nelson Huff, 1826 E. Spruce St.  
Edward Folkerts, Gillespie.  
Sandra Schramm, 2037 Spring St.  
Mary Hartley, Williamsburg.  
Michael Weaver, 1913 E. Cedar St.  
Mrs. Fannie Kincaid, Athens.

##### Discharged.

Mrs. Charles Sharp, 515 W. Monroe St.  
Mrs. Alfred Springer, 2313 Mars Ave.  
Mrs. Clarence Luckwood, Edinburg.  
Frank Gevatosh, 1144 W. Monroe St.

##### El.

Arthur Pritchett, Illinois.  
Mrs. Ron Jardine, 3281 Palmer St.  
Mrs. Oriel West, 1287 E. Adams St.  
Robert Peck, Rochester.  
Verna Lounsbury, Petersburg.  
Shirlene Neuharth, 312 E. Lawrence Ave.  
Mrs. Georgia Freckwinkle, 329 S. Walnut St.

Lincoln Memorial Park association's million dollar project.

Catherine Rinnus and Alan Gard, under the direction of their eighth grade teacher, Louisa Grishom, who sparked the Harvard Park school drive, stated yesterday that the school campaign now is on an organized basis. They have written other public and parochial school officials to join with them in what they term the "Home Crusade."

Evidently the students were inspired in their drive through their studies and discussions about the role school children played in the costly reconstruction of the famous American warship—"Old Ironsides."

From their studies of the records the pupils of both schools probably learned about the important role 60,000 Sunday school children played in raising approximately \$20,000 for the Lincoln tomb project, 20 per cent of the amount needed.

It is also on record that the school children raised the greater part of the \$60,000 needed to purchase the "number three" copy of the Gettysburg address, written in long hand by President Lincoln.

Apparently the Lincoln and Harvard Park school drive is catching on out of town. This conjecture is somewhat supported by a Wilmington, N. C., school girl's letter addressed to the association which reads as follows:

"One of our activities in honoring Abraham Lincoln's birthday was to collect 100 Lincoln pennies to contribute toward the resolution of his home area in Springfield, Ill. We exchanged the Lincoln pennies for a dollar bill and are sending it on George Washington's birthday because Lincoln loved and honored George Washington so we give our small gift in loving memory of two great men."

The letter was signed by Connie Williams, fourth grade pupil of the Lake Forest school, Wilmington, N. C.

This is a concrete example of how youth throughout the nation is pacing the nation-wide drive for funds for the Lincoln Memorial center and public park to be dedicated to the people, for the people, by the people, in everlasting honor of Abraham Lincoln.

Admits He's Liar

## PUPILS ORGANIZE TO AID LINCOLN MEMORIAL PROJECT



—Staff Photo.

Pupils of Lincoln and Harvard Park grade schools have begun a self-inspired drive to raise money for the Lincoln Memorial Park

association's million dollar project.

The drive is called the "Home Crusade" and pupils have written other public and parochial schools to join with them. Some response

has been noticed from schools in

other states. Shown left, to right, are Phil Bisch, treasurer of the association; pupils, Linda Westmoreland and Catherine Rinnus,

both active in the drive, and Louisa Grishom, eighth grade teacher at Harvard Park grade school.

evening at Springfield Dry Will Compete In

to senior girls in her graduation



# Assorted Smiles

By V. Y. DALLMAN (Admiral)  
EDITOR OF THE STATE REGISTER

## Hearththrobs And Soul-Appeal Form Background For Letter Sent By Child To The Mayor!

PRIVATIONS OF WAR, enslavement of their native Latvia, a father wounded, his wife and children imprisoned in "D.P." camps in Germany, their rescue and removal as "refugees" to Springfield . . .

These dramatic facts give scarcely a hint of the torture of Red abuses inflicted behind the "iron curtain" upon a family of five, now breathing the fresh, free air of Springfield.

Even if you let your imagination run riot you cannot grasp the full meaning of the tragic events which prompted Zinta Brivkalns, an 8th grade pupil at Harvard Park school, to write an appealing letter to Mayor MacWherter.

Zinta's mind, heart and soul appeal should prompt Springfield to respond with all of the power of its prosperity and all of the generous impulses of its patriotism to the appeal to rescue the Home of Abraham Lincoln from community neglect, and to crown the "Lincoln Memorial Center" with such success as will win the plaudits of the World.

\* \* \* \*

BEFORE WE QUOTE Zinta's letter let us have a glimpse at the family which escaped death from dictatorships, found refuge in Springfield, and is now a highly-respected and industrious part of this community.

Jeodors Brivkalns, his wife, Veronika, and their three children reside at 2404 S. 9th St. Vija, 22, the oldest child, a daughter, is employed at the Franklin Life Insurance Co. A son, Segurd, 18, is a senior at Springfield High. Zinta is the 8th grader, and our heroine. The father is employed at Pillsbury Mills. All are from Riga, Latvia, a country which loved and lived prosperous freedom until invaded and enslaved by Red armies of Russia. Unspeakable and terrorizing are the horrors enacted before this fine family now in our midst, was saved from the cruelties of Communism.

\* \* \* \*

THE FATHER SERVED in the Latvia army in World War Two with the rank of Captain. He was demoted to private when conscripted to serve under Red-controlled German command. He was wounded and hospitalized. His family was shipped to Germany. For a time they were separated and placed in different Red-

They hope



During their confinement in "D.P." camps, a Baptist minister made contacts for their rescue in America. He signed their affidavits as "refugees" from Latvia. A year later, after cruel suspense, they breathed a breath of freedom. They were enroute to America. Prayers were being answered. Dreams were being realized. They arrived in Springfield, June 24, 1951.

For these blessings they are indebted largely to the Harvard Park Baptist church of which Rev. Herbert W. Clark was Pastor at the time. That liberty-loving, God-serving church sponsored this adventure in Freedom to Lincoln-land with the aid of the Baptist minister in Germany.

\* \* \* \*

KEEP THE ABOVE gripping drama in mind as you read Zinta Brivkalns' intensely patriotic letter, as follows:

The Honorable John E. MacWherter,  
Mayor of Springfield,  
Springfield, Illinois

DEAR MAYOR MacWHERTER:

We, the pupils of 8th grade at Harvard Park school, feel that Springfield should take a greater interest in the proposed Lincoln Memorial Center. We admire Mr. Lincoln so very much; he is one of our favorite people. It seems to us that more should be done to make his home a greater memorial and a greater attraction to the many people who wish to visit it.

Will you please help us to help the Lincoln Memorial association to carry out their plans? We have studied the plans and think they would be a fine thing for our city.

Please, Mr. Mayor, we wish you would enlist the interest of the people of Springfield. If you know of any way that we can help more, will you please tell us? How can we get the people of Springfield more interested? Will you try, too?

Yours respectfully, Pupils of 8th grade, Harvard Park school.

By: Zinta Brivkalns, Eleventh St. and Oberlin, Springfield, Ill.

WE AGREE with the writer of the Starbeams Column, who finds that extreme mental cruelty, requiring a divorce in flossier circles, so often turns out to be merely the sort of behavior that the average husband can square by taking the wife and kids out to dinner.

OUR COMIC DICTIONARY defines a handbag as a woman's purse whose contents are the best proof that money isn't everything.

WE THINK this is an apt definition of Television: A great improvement on radio because it enables us not only to hear static but to see it.

MEET YOU in church!

the department of foreign lan- for E. Carl Lundgren, presented...

## Writer Finds Many Vague Concerning Plans For Building Of Lincoln Memorial

By FRANK DAVIS.

Much water, figuratively speaking, has gone over the dam since a small handful of civic minded "run of the mine" Springfield citizens banded together in 1954 to form the Lincoln Memorial Center association — incorporated under the laws of Illinois as a non-political and not for profit organization.

Considerable publicity about the association's project and those concerned with its administration has been published in the Illinois State Journal and Illinois State Register.

On Lincoln's birthday the Associated Press released a story which was published in metropolitan dailies throughout the nation. Several of the metropolitan dailies, such as the Minneapolis Star, followed up with editorials lauding the ambitious project as being worthy of nationwide support.

Paul Harvey, noted news commentator, devoted the better part of his Feb. 13 network broadcast to urging his listeners to contribute toward placing the hallowed gem in the setting it so richly deserves. The response to his broadcast was immediate. The first donation came from Waco, Tex.

Regardless of all the local and national publicity given the proposed project there remains, according to innumerable inquiries

addressed to the association headquarters, a large segment of the Springfield citizenry who have but a vague idea about the proposed plan.

There are those too in the community who are of the opinion that the Lincoln Memorial association chartered a course without thoughtful planning and a studied evaluation of historical accuracy.

There are some who are of the opinion that the money assigned to a memorial park could better be used in restoring the houses and grounds along Eighth St. as they were in Lincoln's day.

Dissenting opinions are of value because a general agreement on any proposed project cannot be resolved until all differing viewpoints have been ironed out to a conclusion in the best interest of all.

In the best interest of all it is fitting and proper that any and all proposed civic projects should be subject to free and open discussion by whomsoever may be interested.

Free and open discussion, however, does not grant the right to adroitly circulate false and misleading allegations.

Seemingly a recapitulation of what has been done and what is to be done is in order.

First—let it be here recorded that the proposed Lincoln Memorial center and public park is

a carbon copy, with some variations, of the Myron Howard West "City Plan" which included a Lincoln parkway.

The West plan was approved and adopted by the Springfield city council in 1924. In 1925 the Springfield city council ordered that the adopted city plan and Lincoln parkway be published in book form. Copies of the 90 page book are on file at the Lincoln and state libraries.

Two members of the 1924 Springfield zoning and planning commission, under whose direction the West plan was prepared, are members of the Lincoln memorial center advisory council. The advisory council, as now constituted, is composed of nationally and locally prominent business and professional men and women, clergymen of the major faiths, and distinguished historians who are acclaimed to be among the foremost Lincoln scholars of the day.

The foregoing summary should establish in the minds of the public that the proposed project is under the administration of able civic minded men and women of repute.

More than 800 letters addressed to Lincoln scholars and members of the Abraham Lincoln association, brought hundreds of replies favoring, without reservation, the plan to prevent the Lincoln home from becoming a site adrift in a city.

There remains no doubt about the revered home becoming a site adrift in the city. The street is already zoned for any kind of business except heavy manufacturing.

It is only a matter of time until the Lincoln home area becomes smothered in mediocrity — a blot in the eyes of thousands upon thousands of people from all over the world who come to Springfield to visit the priceless gem.

The only question to be resolved is this — do these more than

come to pay tribute to the 16th President of the United States — one of the greatest presidents in our history? So great that H. G. Wells, the noted historian, named him as one of the six outstanding immortals of world civilization.

Now that he belongs to the ages is it fitting and proper — or not — that the neighborhood around his home should equal all the dignity and magnificence of his sacred tomb at Oak Ridge — and the Great Chair in the Lincoln Memorial on the hill top at the end of the Mall in Washington, D. C.?

Shall we continue keeping our priceless heritage smothered in a declining neighborhood? Or shall we, the people of this community and the state of Illinois, so set apart, and honor one of the men God gave us when we needed something more than mortal wisdom to guide us?

If enough civic minded citizens of this community and throughout the state of Illinois are agreed that we should honor one of the greatest men in our history by placing the priceless jewels in the setting it so richly deserves, then join hands with the Lincoln Memorial association and help toward getting it done.

The project will require at least one million dollars. The money can be raised in two ways:

1. By professional fund raising organizations who have solicited the opportunity to do so.
2. By popular subscription and voluntary donations.

The Memorial association proposes, for the present, at least, to raise the money the hard way — under its own power. A heavy responsibility to be sure — one that will need all the help that may be made available.

A campaign is now under way urging all Lincoln minded Americans to send in a picture of George Washington — on the one dollar bill. School children and students in all categories are invited to participate by sending in junior sized pictures of Abraham Lincoln — on the Lincoln penny.

Organizations, foundations, civic clubs, schools, churches, lodges and other groups are being appealed to for their moral and financial support.

Out of the population of 162 million should be one million Americans who will contribute at least one dollar each.

A recent Illinois State Journal editorial pointed out that: "Will-ing or not, Springfield is a city of destiny. The time has come to start living up to it."

## Local Briefs

William Maslauski, son of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Maslauski, of 1215 Enterprise St., has been named to the Depp's honor roll.



# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

NUMBER 1354

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

MARCH 21, 1955

## SPRINGFIELD'S LINCOLN MEMORIAL CENTER

Although as much as one-half of Abraham Lincoln's life was spent at different periods in Kentucky, Indiana, and the District of Columbia, he is most often associated with Illinois where he lived for twenty-eight years, seven in the rural sections of the state and twenty-one in Springfield. When Secretary of State, Charles F. Carpenter took office in January 1953 he designed an insignia for Illinois which contained a white silhouette profile of Lincoln on a green map of the state. At the top of the drawing was placed the word ILLINOIS and under the profile the inscription LAND OF LINCOLN.

At the 1953 General Assembly of Illinois, Senator Fred J. Hart prepared a bill which would require this insignia to appear on Illinois motor vehicle license plates, but the bill was amended so that the insignia might be used at the discretion of the secretary of state. The fact that the plates carry the inscription "Land of Lincoln" has given the slogan wide publicity. A more recent bill introduced by Mr. Hart on January 25, 1955 and known as Senate Bill No. 29 states, "The slogan 'Land of Lincoln' is designated and shall be known as the official slogan of the state of Illinois."

One can immediately observe how greatly this slogan is to increase an interest in the Lincoln shrines and sites of historical importance in the state of Illinois. Already there has been a well directed effort to improve and make more accessible the Lincoln treasures which are now in possession of the state.

For many years the Lincoln Tomb at Springfield has been and still is the mecca for all Lincoln students visiting Illinois. During the custodianship of both Mr. Oldroyd and Mr. Fay there was an informal display of curios at the tomb which created much human interest but greatly detracted from the beauty and dignity of the shrine. Upon the reconstruction of the monument the curios were removed and the aesthetic values of the memorial were greatly enhanced. However, the unconventional exhibits once enjoyed especially by collectors and students are now gone.

Closely associated with the tomb is the original home of the Lincoln family on Eighth Street where they lived for seventeen years. It was from this residence that they went to the Executive Mansion. A restoration program at the home covering a period of five years and costing \$60,000 has been in process. Richard Hagen, historical consultant to the Illinois Park and Memorial Division, has directed the improvements. A formal opening was held on February 12 and for the first time the second story of the house has been opened to visitors which adds greatly to the human interest value of the shrine. The total of 400,000 people who visit the home annually should be greatly accentuated by the completion of the improvements.

In respect for George Washington, Americans have made Mt. Vernon one of the most revered residences in the nation. Exponents of the democratic way of life have set apart Thomas Jefferson's Monticello as one of the show places of the nation. Admirers of Andrew Jackson point with pride at the preservation of the Hermitage. Yet Abraham Lincoln's humble dwelling is seldom associated with those other outstanding shrines of the country. Here is a home that does not represent the colonial period or a location where several generations of a family might have resided on the same lands. The Lincoln Home in Springfield is the terminal dwelling of a family that for seven generations moved westward, and including the District of Columbia, sojourned in seven different commonwealths.

There appeared in a current magazine article some time ago a statement of a tourist who had visited the shrines of great Americans but admitted that when he touched any spot related to Lincoln he experienced a sensation not felt at other historical sites. He seemed to get beneath the material things observed and every possible means should be put forth to create in the minds of those who visit the Lincoln home in Springfield the same feeling as reported by this impressed tourist when he touched historical scenes associated with the Lincoln family.

Now that the Lincoln Tomb has been rebuilt and enriched and the Lincoln home redecorated and refurbished, an association has been formed for the purpose of creating a nation-wide interest in developing adjacent to the Lincoln home an area to be known as the Lincoln Memorial Center. The project calls for the acquisition of one-half block on the east side of Eighth St. between Jackson St. and Capitol Ave., which land is north of the Lincoln home, also one-half block on the west side of Eighth St., between Jackson St. and Capitol Ave., this tract to be used for service facilities such as a souvenir shop, rest rooms and parking spaces. On the northwest corner of the lot complementing the home which stands on the southwest corner, a museum and library building is contemplated which has tremendous possibilities for creating a predominant Lincoln information center.

A former governor of Illinois, Henry Horner, presented to the state in 1940 what is said to have been the largest personally owned collection of Lincolniana in America. It became the property of the Illinois State Library and supplemented the already fine Lincoln library then in possession of the state. Lack of exhibit space, however, as well as a division of interest in other important historical projects in Illinois has not allowed the collection of Lincolniana to be adequately displayed. Access to the room now set aside for the collection is not so convenient as the approach to either the tomb or the residence.

If the museum and library contemplated at the Springfield Memorial Center could be utilized to display this magnificent collection, the project would have still further appeal to Lincoln students in general. With this great collection of Lincolniana housed adjacent to the Lincoln home and with convenient parking facilities tourists would at last have a perfect set up for visiting Springfield, capital of the "Land of Lincoln."

On Lincoln's Birthday just past, the very day on which the refurbished Lincoln home was opened to the public, the committee proposing to direct the financing of the center began the serious business of raising the \$1,000,000 required to carry out the proposed plans. Nation wide recognition was given to the effort over the American Broadcast network Sunday evening, February 13, on the Paul Harvey news program. The theme of the appeal was "Stop Hiding That House," the inference being clear that the place that Lincoln owned and lived in during most of his married life had been somewhat obscured in its local setting by the unattractive environment in which it is located.

At one of the preliminary meetings of the planning committee it was suggested that inasmuch as the \$5.00 bill carries a picture of Abraham Lincoln, such a piece of currency might be designated an appreciation gift. For instance, if all the students of Abraham Lincoln in America were to forward to Lincoln Memorial Center Association, P. O. Box 211, Springfield, Ill., such an appropriate contribution the entire sum would be realized.

An excerpt from PAUL HARVEY NEWS - Wednesday, May 18, 1955, 12:00 to 12:15 P. M. -- Broadcast from Springfield, Illinois, over the Network of the American Broadcasting Company:

This is Springfield, Illinois. In the heart of the Land of Lincoln. I have been here at least once under every state administration for as long as I can remember.

You see, I can meddle in Illinois.

In other states I am always conscious of my responsibility as an outsider ... not to inject myself into purely local situations which are not my rightful province. But here I can listen to the politicians ... and talk back to them. And even in a few hours, the visitor with a nose trained for news senses a subtle but very definite change in Springfield in just the past two years.

The city's social and political character has been measurably influenced by the young family in the big, old house on Fifth Street.

There has not really been a happy family in the Governor's Mansion during the recent administrations preceding the Strattons. Pete Green and Adlai Stevenson made it their political headquarters, but Shirley and Bill Stratton have made it a home. And do not underestimate the effect of this change. The reflected warmth of that family relationship is so real that the visitor can feel it everywhere. Even those hereabouts who do not understand it, respect it. And are proud of it.

There is another house in this town which might be a source of pride, too. But that potential is being wasted ... its opportunity for good influence lost. I visited that house last night. The empty house on Eighth Street. I went there at midnight. I did not intend that my visit would be so late. But after my speech and some interviews and a reception ... it was somehow that late ... before I could return to the corner of Eighth and Jackson. I'd visited the house earlier in the day to pose for some news pictures. But this visit, late and alone, was the result of nothing more than a bedtime search for a breath of fresh air. It was not because Vachel Lindsay had once said ... Abe Lincoln still walks there ... at midnight.

Once upon a time when our nation was being tested in the crucible of conflicting convictions, a skinny, homely lawyer came out of Springfield, Illinois ... to grasp ... with hands strengthened by the axe handle ... the shredded remnants of our Republic and mend them.

A grateful nation raised a thrilling memorial to this man in Washington. Kentucky set aside 110 acres around where he was born. New Salem reserved 280 acres in his name because he once lived there. Illinois citizens erected an imposing monument over his tomb.

But Abe Lincoln did not choose where he was born or worked or was buried. And his home ... the only one he ever bought and owned ... the only place in his life he ever truly chose to be ... The house he bought and insured and improved and remodeled and furnished ... Sits on two narrow city lots, almost crowded from sight in a dark and declining neighborhood.

Well, Sir, here is a magic name in American history ... Anywhere in America.

And though we have properly preserved the homes of Washington and Jefferson and Jackson and Franklin Roosevelt and though millions are being subscribed to erect a Harry S. Truman Memorial Library... Springfield, Illinois is neglecting ...

It seems they're almost hiding ... the Lincoln Home on Eighth Street.

*See Shell music file "Abe Lincoln Home" 1955.*

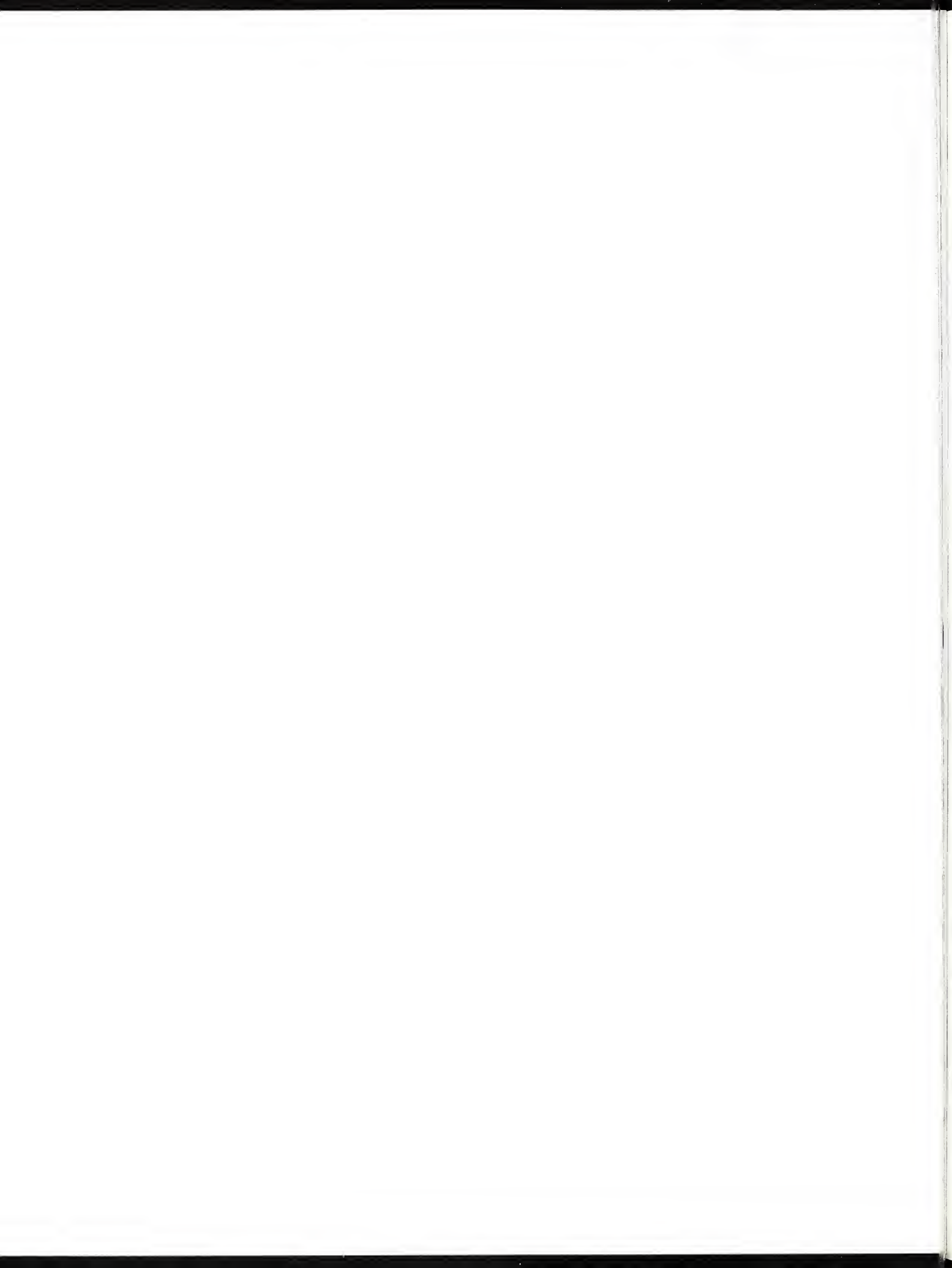


Recently some citizens here organized the Lincoln Memorial Center Association.  
Made plans to surround that Lincoln home with a setting befitting its place in  
history.  
To stop hiding that house.

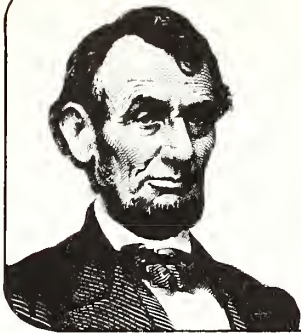
And do you know where the most contributions have come from so far? From  
schoolchildren of the community.  
They, through accumulations of Lincoln-head pennies, are seeking to undo this  
unfortunate neglect.  
And I know ... if you can help them ... you'd be doing yourself a favor, too.  
I didn't mean this to enlist your aid for something Illinois should have done for  
itself a long time ago, but the old Emancipator belongs to all of us.  
And it occurs to me that with the world's present division of ideologies ...  
When it is so important we keep ourselves strong enough to enforce ... peace ...  
That we would do well to re-affirm our respect for the American tradition ...  
To re-emphasize ... and repeat ... all that was best in our past.

The much-maligned Mrs. Lincoln who lived in this house suffered as few mortals  
have ...  
In order to preserve the example of keeping the first family intact.  
I don't know if you knew ...  
But Mrs. Lincoln's own family used to have to visit her by the back door and by  
night ...  
For, you see, her family fought on the side of the confederacy.  
While it was her responsibility to review, smile upon, and decorate victorious  
returning Union troops ...  
Her three brothers were dying ... fighting for the other side.  
As surely as today's new influence of the Governor's Mansion has been mirrored  
throughout Springfield ...  
So should the old house on Eighth Street ... cast its soothing shade across the  
tempers of a troubled world.

This was my thought as I stood alone last night ... beneath the giant Maple tree  
on the lawn ...  
No, he does not visit this place at midnight. Not really.  
But I will tell you this.  
Though he will not come back to life, his house will ...  
Because somebody cares.  
I know.  
Because in his room upstairs ... last night ...  
Somebody'd left the light on.







# Lincoln Lore

May, 1981

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.  
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the  
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Number 1719

## BEEN TO SPRINGFIELD LATELY?

The answer every Lincoln enthusiast would like to be able to give is, yes. Of all the Lincoln sites in the country, none is as important as Springfield. Lincoln's home, his tomb, his law office, the legislature in which he served, the state supreme court before which he argued, and the railroad station from which he departed for Washington are in Springfield. The Illinois State Historical Library contains the research materials that all Lincoln students want and need to read. The whole environment is invigorating and always serves to spur enthusiasm for research on the life of America's most important President.

Springfield's ambience has always been conducive to learning about and appreciating Abraham Lincoln's life. Those of you who have not been to Springfield lately are in for a pleasant surprise when you return to this Lincoln mecca. The

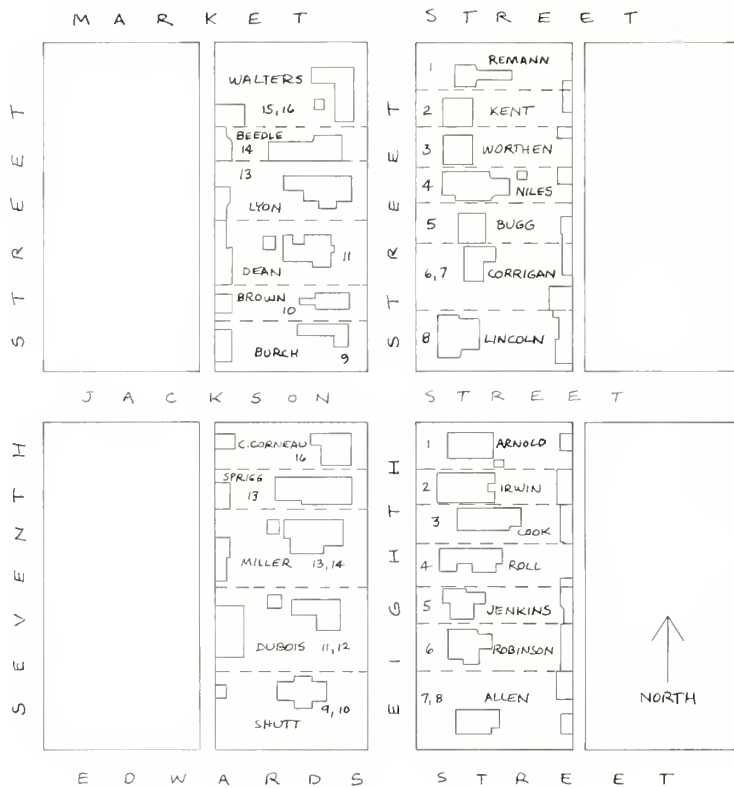
improvements in the Lincoln sites in recent years are far too numerous to catalogue here, but the most ambitious recent work deserves special notice.

The National Park Service, which administers the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, has embarked on a program to enhance the environment around the Lincoln home, pushing back the commercial blight which threatens so many of the nation's historic landmarks. The Lincoln home is not a brave little clapboard shrine bobbing on a sea of asphalt parking lots. It is not surrounded by tawdry curio-hawkers and phony museums which derive their only real element of authenticity from the genuine historic site they exploit and degrade. Visiting the Lincoln home consists of more than one briefly exhilarating encounter with an honest original preceded and followed by jarringly depressing confrontations with flim-



*Courtesy National Park Service*

FIGURE 1. William Beedle house.



From the Louis A. Warren  
Lincoln Library and Museum

**FIGURE 2.** Map of Mr. Lincoln's neighborhood, adapted from the "Historical Base Map, 1860" drawn by the National Park Service.

flams and neon. It is, instead, a soothing, moving encounter with the environment of Abraham Lincoln's America.

Picket fences line the board sidewalks which lead the visitor through a four-block area the National Park Service describes as "Mr. Lincoln's neighborhood." At the rate of one house a year, the National Park Service has been restoring the homes around Lincoln's home to look, as nearly as possible, as they did in 1860. As always, the Park Service is willing to compromise with the inexorable ravages of time. Some homes are gone and probably cannot be replaced. Others cannot be reasonably restored to an 1860 state. In general, they will be more demanding of the buildings closest to the Lincoln home, and allow more license in those further away. Near the Lincoln home, they may reconstruct a missing structure or two. All of the buildings will have information signs in front.

To date, the houses of William Beedle and George Shutt have undergone renovation. The Henson Robinson house is currently undergoing restoration (built in 1863, it is another of the Park Service's compromises). Others will follow in future years. Already, one feels more at ease in the area of the Lincoln home, and, when the project is completed, visitors will be able to stroll the streets of Lincoln's neighborhood much as he might have done himself.

Who were Lincoln's neighbors? George W. Shutt, who rented his home in 1860, was a young Democratic lawyer who spoke at a rally for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860. Members of the Shutt clan had been in Sangamon County for decades. Like many of Springfield's citizens, they had come from Virginia to Illinois via Kentucky. George's relationship with the other Shutt is not clear, but he had married a Virginian, Mary Osburn, and shared Democratic political sympathies with the earlier Shutt pioneers in Sangamon County.

William H. Beedle was also a renter. He made his living as a fireman, but little else is known of this man who was not a long-time Springfield resident.

Henson Robinson, on the other hand, lived in Springfield for more than forty years. Born in Xenia, Ohio, in 1839, he came to

Springfield in 1858. A tinner by trade, Robinson entered a partnership with George Bauman in 1861 to sell stoves, furnaces, and tinware. Contracts for the manufacture of soldiers' mess plates and tin cups during the Civil War brought prosperity. A Methodist and a temperance man, Robinson was nevertheless a member of the Democratic party while Lincoln was still in Springfield. The Sixteenth President, of course, never saw Robinson's house, but its style is in keeping with the other restorations, and retaining the structure helps maintain the urban flavor of fairly dense settlement proper for the Lincoln neighborhood.

Sarah Cook, Robinson's neighbor on the present site, was a widow with six children. She rented her home from John A. Mason and took in roomers to help make ends meet. Mrs. Cook was born in 1809 in Warren, Ohio. She moved to Illinois with her husband Eli and settled in Springfield around 1840. He was a hatter. Her husband died in 1853, and for a brief time she operated a photographic studio in Springfield.

Charles Arnold's house is near Mrs. Cook's but located on the rear of the lot it occupied in 1860. Arnold lived in the house from 1850 to the 1870s. Born in Massachusetts in 1809, this transplanted Yankee, like most of his fellow New Englanders in Illinois, was a Whig. In 1840 he had been elected County Treasurer, and he was twice elected Sheriff of Sangamon County (1848 and 1852). Public office and Whig affiliation as well as physical proximity made Arnold an acquaintance of Lincoln's. He was married and (in 1850) had three children.

An even more prominent politician in Lincoln's neighborhood was Jesse Kilgore Dubois. He built the home across the street from the Henson Robinson house in 1858 and resided there for most of his neighbor's Presidency. Dubois was born in southeastern Illinois in 1811. He served with Lincoln in the state legislature, and their mutual devotion to the Whig party forged a fairly close friendship. He named his second child by his second

wife Lincoln. Dubois moved into the Republican party in 1856. Elected State Auditor that year, he moved to Springfield to assume his office. Reelected in 1860, Dubois had worked hard for Lincoln's election too, and he was to be sorely disappointed when he proved to have but little influence on the administration's appointments. Dubois was a loyal partisan but a man of narrow horizons who had hardly left his native state since birth. His request to have his son-in-law made Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Minnesota was opposed by the entire Minnesota congressional delegation, and Lincoln simply could not make the unprecedented move of appointing him in the face of such opposition. Bitterly disappointed, Dubois grumbled for years about Lincoln's treatment of him, but he did work for the President's reelection in 1864. He played a prominent role in Lincoln's funeral and was an active member of the National Lincoln Monument Association. Adelia Morris Dubois, Jesse's second wife, and Dubois himself remained friends of Mrs. Lincoln's throughout her unhappy widowhood.

Allen Miller, whose house is now next to Dubois's on the north, was a Sangamon County native (born in 1828). He and his wife Clarissa had seven children. He built his home around 1855. Miller dealt in leather goods, stoves, and tinware.

Julia Sprigg occupied the next house to the north. She was a widow, and her husband, Maryland native John C. Sprigg, had been a bank clerk. They had six children. Mrs. Sprigg herself had been born in Germany in 1815. Mr. Sprigg died in 1852, and Mrs. Sprigg moved to the house near the Lincolns in 1853. She became a friend of Mrs. Lincoln's, and her daughter often acted as babysitter for Tad and Willie Lincoln.

Charles Corneau's house, moved to prevent demolition in 1962, now sits next to the Lincoln home. He lived in the house from 1855 until his death in June, 1860. Corneau was Lincoln's druggist. He had also been a Whig in politics. Charles Corneau was born in Pennsylvania in 1826.

Almost nothing is known about Frederick Dean, but we do



know something about Lincoln's other neighbor across the street, Henson Lyon, who rented his home from Lemuel Ide. Lyon was a farmer who had resided two and one-half miles from Springfield after leaving Kentucky for Sangamon County in 1834. The home is famous for a post-Civil War resident, Samuel Rosenwald, the father of philanthropist Julius Rosenwald.

Many of the houses that stood near the Lincoln home in 1860 are gone now. The National Park Service may reconstruct a few of these, but most will have to be known from plat maps and census data, not from pleasant strolls through a tree-shaded historic site. In hopes of making this article a useful tool for the researcher, these now-phantom residents will be described in the following paragraphs. Those readers interested in this article primarily as a guide to the reconstructed Lincoln Home National Historic Site might want to turn to the last page for the concluding paragraphs on the site.

Moving northward from the Lincoln home, one finds the home sites of Henry Corrigan, Edward Bugg, Lotus Niles, Amos Worthen, Jesse Kent, and Mary Remann. Corrigan, born in Ireland in 1810, was retired by 1860. He was a good deal better off than his neighbor to the south, Abraham Lincoln. Corrigan valued his real estate at \$30,000. Bugg was a teamster. Born in England in 1812, he married a Virginian and had one son. He valued his real estate at \$4,000 in 1860, up from \$410 a decade before. By 1870 Bugg was a clerk. He seems to have been an ambitious and modestly successful man.

Lotus Niles, born in 1820, listed his occupation as "secretary" in the 1860 census. Whatever his precise duties,

they seem to have been remunerative, for he valued his real estate at \$7,000 and his personal property at \$2,500. Moreover, two female servants occupied his home along with his wife and three children. Amos Worthen was the State Geologist (he valued his real estate at \$5,000 in 1860). Jesse H. Kent was born in Ohio in 1812. A carriage-maker by trade, Kent valued his real estate at \$3,000 in 1860, up from \$350 in 1850, when he had listed his trade as "plough stocker." Kent had been a steady Whig in politics. The last house on Lincoln's block was Mary Remann's boarding house. A widow, Mrs. Remann had three children and rented rooms to John and Alexander Black.

Across Jackson Street to the south were the homes of Jared P. Irwin, John E. Roll, Jameson Jenkins, and Solomon Allen. Irwin had lived in Springfield briefly after 1837, when he laid bricks for the foundation of what is now the Old State Capitol. He returned to Pennsylvania, married, and moved back to Springfield in 1857. Irwin was an active Republican, an officer in Springfield's Lincoln Club in 1860. The Lincolns gave him as souvenirs some of their letters they were about to burn in preparation for their departure to Washington in 1861.

John E. Roll, born in New Jersey in 1814, had known Lincoln from the period of his earliest entry in Illinois. In 1831 Roll had helped Lincoln construct the flatboat he was to take to New Orleans for Denton Offutt. Roll moved to Springfield in 1831 and became a plasterer. He did well, valuing his real estate at \$4,750 in 1850, a figure well above that claimed by many of Lincoln's neighbors at that date. Eventually he became a contractor, building more than one hundred houses in Springfield. He was a steady Whig voter in the 1840s. The



*Courtesy National Park Service*

**FIGURE 3.** Julia Sprigg house.





*Courtesy National Park Service*

**FIGURE 4. Allen Miller house.**

Lincolns left their dog Fido with Roll when they departed for Washington in 1861.

Jameson Jenkins was born in North Carolina in 1810. He was married and had one daughter. Census takers noted the race of black and mulatto citizens, and the Jenkins family were listed as mulattoes. Mr. Jenkins was a drayman and drove Lincoln to the depot for his departure to Washington. His daughter married the son of Lincoln's barber William Florville. Solomon Allen, born in 1788, was a veteran of the War of 1812. He was a gunsmith. His barn still survives, but his house was demolished in the 1890s.

Across the street from the Lincolns lived William S. Burch, Ira Brown, and Ann J. Walters. Burch, born in 1814, was a clerk in a retail store (he valued his real estate at \$2,000 in 1860). Little is known about Ira Brown, Jr., or the widow Ann J. Walters, who had four children and valued her real estate at \$6,000 in 1860.

One of Abraham Lincoln's most notable qualities was his ability to transcend his environment. He was a common man, yet uncommon. His immediate environment is, nevertheless, always worthy of scrutiny. No one is completely exempt from the impress of his environment. Lincoln's neighborhood, it seems, contained both the expected and the unexpected. Many of its residents were substantial middling citizens who had steadily improved their economic lot. Men who had supported the Whig party predominated in the immediate neighborhood, just as they did in Springfield and Sangamon County as a whole. One might have expected the neighborhood to be more homogeneous in ethnic makeup, however. Persons born in Germany, England, and Ireland

were Lincoln's neighbors. So were mulattoes. Springfield may well have exposed Lincoln to a more complex variety of experiences than has been previously thought.

One suspects that more Americans learn history from historic sites than from books and lectures—especially after their years of formal schooling are over. Developing historic sites as the National Park Service now does is more than a matter of insulating the surviving reminders of this country's hallowed past from visual blight and from commercial exploitation heedless of authenticity. By enriching the memorials and monuments with the insights of the new social history, the National Park Service communicates an understanding of history that truly updates what the casual visitor may have learned in high school or college. All Lincoln students should acknowledge the distinguished role the National Park Service plays in keeping Americans abreast of the developments in the historical field which might otherwise remain the exclusive property of a handful of professional historians and devoted buffs.

It would be a mistake to end here and to underestimate the sheer pleasure involved in all this. No one who would take the trouble to visit the Lincoln sites in Springfield could fail to be impressed with the experience. If you have a chance, go there and see for yourself. If the timing is right, walk over to the Lincoln home around sundown. Tread the board sidewalks in relative solitude after the roar of the traffic on the busy street behind the home has subsided. Look at Lincoln's neighborhood in the twilight. You will likely remember the walk for the rest of your life.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL  
CENTER

DRAWER 12

SPRINGFIELD

